

House Bill 676

By: Representative Knox of the 24th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-34-26.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses, so as to provide for
3 on-site patient evaluation; to provide for examination of all patients who receive a
4 prescription drug order for a controlled substance of more than a ten-day supply; to provide
5 for approval by the board of nurse protocol agreements; to provide for a fee; to revise a
6 provision relating to unlawful activity; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 43-34-26.3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to delegation
11 of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses, is amended by revising
12 subsections (c), (m), and (n), as follows:

13 "(c) A nurse protocol agreement between a physician and an advanced practice registered
14 nurse pursuant to this Code section shall:

15 (1) Be between an advanced practice registered nurse who is in a comparable specialty
16 area or field as that of the delegating physician;

17 (2) Contain a provision for immediate consultation between the advanced practice
18 registered nurse and the delegating physician; if the delegating physician is not available,
19 the delegating physician for purposes of consultation may designate another physician
20 who concurs with the terms of the nurse protocol agreement;

21 (3) Identify the parameters under which delegated acts may be performed by the
22 advanced practice registered nurse, including without limitation the number of refills
23 which may be ordered, the kinds of diagnostic studies which may be ordered, the extent
24 to which radiographic image tests may be ordered, and the circumstances under which
25 a prescription drug order may be executed. In the event the delegating physician
26 authorizes the advanced practice registered nurse to order an X-ray, ultrasound, or

radiographic imaging test, the nurse protocol agreement shall contain provisions whereby such X-ray, ultrasound, or radiographic imaging test shall be read and interpreted by a physician who is trained in the reading and interpretation of such tests; a report of such X-ray, ultrasound, or radiographic imaging test may be reviewed by the advanced practice registered nurse; and a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the delegating physician, except that such provision for an ultrasound shall not be required for an advanced practice registered nurse acting within his or her scope of practice as authorized by Code Sections 43-26-3 and 43-26-5;

(4) Require documentation either in writing or by electronic means or other medium by the advanced practice registered nurse of those acts performed by the advanced practice registered nurse which are specific to the medical acts authorized by the delegating physician;

(5) Include a schedule for periodic review by the delegating physician of patient records. Such patient records review may be achieved with a sampling of such records as determined by the delegating physician;

(6) Provide for on-site patient ~~evaluation or follow-up~~ examination by the delegating physician or other physician designated by the delegating physician pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, with the frequency of such ~~evaluation or follow-up~~ examination based on the nature, extent, and scope of the delegated act or acts as determined by the delegating physician in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection and accepted standards of medical practice as determined by the board;

(7) Be reviewed, revised, or updated annually by the delegating physician and the advanced practice registered nurse;

(8) Be available for review upon written request to the advanced practice registered nurse by the Georgia Board of Nursing or to the physician by the board; and

(9) Provide that ~~a patient who receives~~ 100 percent of all patients who receive a prescription drug order for any controlled substance pursuant to a nurse protocol agreement shall be ~~evaluated or~~ examined on-site by the delegating physician or other physician designated by the delegating physician pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection on at least a quarterly basis ~~or at a more frequent interval as determined by the board;~~ provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to a patient who has received a prescription drug order for a ten-day or less supply of a controlled substance during the quarter."

"(m) The board shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations governing a delegating physician in order to carry out the intents and purposes of this Code section. Further, the board shall be authorized to:

(1) Require that a nurse protocol agreement and registration form shall be filed by the delegating physician with the board for approval and shall be accompanied by the required fee, which shall not be refundable, within a reasonable time from the date of execution;

(2) Determine, after review of a filed nurse protocol agreement, if such nurse protocol agreement fails to meet accepted standards of medical practice as established by the board; and

(3) Require the delegating physician to amend any such noncompliant nurse protocol agreement in order to meet such accepted standards.

(n) Except for practice settings identified in paragraph (7) of subsection (g) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for a physician to be ~~an employee~~ employed by or a consultant of an advanced practice registered nurse, alone or in combination with others, if the physician is required to supervise the employing advanced practice registered nurse. Such conduct shall be subject to sanctions by the Georgia Board of Nursing as to the advanced practice registered nurse and the board as to the physician."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.